

Golf found me: Marcus Williams

Transcript

00:00:08:23 - 00:00:20:16

MARCUS WILLIAMS:

My name is Marcus Williams. I'm from the Bay Area, Oakland, California. Currently living in Atlanta. Avid golfer.

00:00:20:16 - 00:00:25:16

MARCUS WILLIAMS:

Golf found me. I didn't find golf. I didn't go out, you know, saying I wanted to play golf.

00:00:29:27 - 00:00:50:14

MARCUS WILLIAMS:

I was rear-ended by a drunk driver, August 5, 2012. And so I was in rehab for 144 days, which usually is 21 days, and you're back at home trying to figure it out. I experienced every side of rehab and so what to do with that. You know, I couldn't just harness it and only use it for myself.

00:00:50:26 - 00:01:11:29

MARCUS WILLIAMS:

I've seen patients, human beings, you know, who life had, you know, had changed overnight. Just like mine did. I've seen that deer in the headlights look, you know, as far as from people in their bed not knowing what was going to happen with their life. And so you have to have accepted what happened to you because what happened to you is not who you are.

00:01:12:09 - 00:01:35:11

MARCUS WILLIAMS:

And so once you accept it, then you can move, you can draw the line. I would share that, you know, with everyone that I met, whether you are in a wheelchair, whether you are a stroke survivor or whatever, whatever reason brought you into this, neuro hospital and it inspires and they want to do some of the things that I've been privy to do.

00:01:35:11 - 00:01:57:27

MARCUS WILLIAMS:

I hear the word inspiration a lot. I wish I can charge \$5 for every time somebody told me I was inspirational; I would be rich. They love to see me doing what I'm doing. Anything that I do, I'm enough. It's enough. And so as long as I put my heart into it, I enjoy it. As long as I'm having fun, that brings me joy.

00:01:57:28 - 00:02:22:25

MARCUS WILLIAMS:

And so I try to share that part. Golf has taught me patience. It's taught me to forgive myself. I noticed, you know, that I got better. Then I went out to a Georgia State Golf Association clinic, and that took the cake, just seeing one-armed golfers, blind golfers. So I started to meet different people of all different communities and it was like a home for me.

00:02:22:25 - 00:02:48:05

MARCUS WILLIAMS:

I can see that I'm using it to be able to conversation in that region as far as to get more people to reinvent what's possible for them. And so I just want to share that through the game of golf, you know, to grow the game. I like something that challenges me. And so that's why I love golf. First round in the golf, I got skunked. So it was a Georgia State Golf Association championship that they put me in.

00:02:48:17 - 00:03:09:22

MARCUS WILLIAMS:

And so I went out and I played with a bunch of seeded golfers who have played golf before they got injured. And I can't tell you what I scored, but I got skunked. You know, I think I got about three good shots off the ground that whole round. For me, it was more so my introduction, you know, it made me hungry and that kind of gave me the confidence.

00:03:09:22 - 00:03:35:15

MARCUS WILLIAMS:

You know, the key component for me has been resilience. You know, I'm a very resilient person. My world is very strong. You have to have that. You know, you can have all the other support system. You can be in the right rehab. You can have all the stuff to help you, but you have to help yourself. And so one action after another is how I live my life.

00:03:35:28 - 00:04:13:02

MARCUS WILLIAMS:

And so resilience is where it's at for me. Imagining golf, my vision is to make golf courses workable for everyone. Golf is freedom. Golf is no challenge at all. It's freedom. It's the freedom from life. It's a part of life, but it's the freedom from

life. This is a sport that I can play the rest of my life. I don't really think that I would have been the person that I am without golf.

00:04:18:01 - 00:04:48:04

MARCUS WILLIAMS:

My goal is to see more people thrive from this state and just want to get more people to stand up and play. I'd never swung a golf club in my life. And so I moved here to Georgia. What has it done for me? It has given me a sense of freedom and liberty. You know, like to escape everything. My pain, you know, spasms, you know, different things that would probably, you know, cause me to go deeper into depression, you know. So golf brought me out of depression when I moved here to Georgia. So I love this game.

